

# CHOCOLA

## CONGRESS

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FEDERAL ELECTION  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF GENERAL  
COUNSEL

Nov 20 2 03 PM '00

MR. AND MRS. CHRIS CHOCOLA

20380 C.R. 14  
BRISTOL, IN 46507

November 13, 2000

RE: MUR 5134

General Counsel's Office  
Federal Election Commission  
999 E. Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20463

Attention: Jeff S. Jordan  
Supervisory Attorney

Dear Mr. Jordan:

I received your letter relating to MUR 5134 on November 9, 2000, and hereby respond in writing.

I was involved in a highly contested Congressional race in Indiana's Third District against Tim Roemer. Tim Roemer filed the above referenced complaint, and held a press conference relating to the complaint, less than two weeks before the election.

His claim is that my campaign committee received illegal contributions after the primary election. As you know, it is entirely legal to raise contributions to retire debts after an election is over so long as three general rules are followed.

- Contributions are still subject to the limits and prohibitions of the Federal Election Campaign Act.
- Contributions made after an election to retire debts must be specifically designated for that election by the contributor.
- Contributions designated for, but made after a particular election may not exceed the campaign's net debt outstanding.

In all but four cases, the contributions complained of by Tim Roemer clearly meet all three of the general rules. These contributions were within the limits set by FEC law, the contributor specifically designated them for primary debt retirement, and they did not

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exceed the campaign's net debt outstanding, which was \$75,000 on the date of the primary election.

The remaining four contributions from, Susan Hight, John Hiler, Catherine Hiler and Gordon Lord are all cases of over reporting. In each of these cases the contributors held campaign activities in their homes and reported the related costs to our campaign. Although these costs are not considered a contribution under FEC Law, and are not reportable, we included this information in our quarterly reports. If this practice is improper, I will be more than willing to amend the reports or comply with any other remedy.

Our campaign has worked diligently to comply with FEC law. I am confident that we have in fact complied, and that Mr. Roemer's complaint was filed for purely political purposes. The timing of his complaint is a good indication of its political nature. Allocating Commission resources to respond to politically motivated complaints, in such a clear case of compliance would not appear to be prudent, therefore, I would respectfully request a decision that no further action should be taken. In any event, I will cooperate fully with you and the FEC to resolve this matter.

Please notify me at your earliest convenience of your decision relating to this matter.

Yours truly,



Chris Chocola

STATE OF INDIANA     )  
                                  SS:  
COUNTY OF ELKHART)

Before me the undersigned, a Notary Public for Elkhart County, State of Indiana, personally appeared Chris Chocola and acknowledged the execution of the foregoing instrument this 13<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2000.



Elizabeth A. Cripe, Notary Public

My commission expires January 25, 2008